

# MEMO

**DATE:** April 3, 2008  
**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Jonathan Nadler, Program Manager, (213) 236-1884; nadler@scag.ca.gov  
**SUBJECT:** 2008 RTP Conformity Update

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## BACKGROUND:

Transportation conformity is required under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to ensure that federally supported highway and transit project activities conform to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). "Conformity" means that transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Conformity applies to areas that are designated non-attainment, and those re-designated to attainment after 1990 ("maintenance areas") for the following transportation-related criteria pollutants: ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>).

As discussed at the March EEC meeting, the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) must pass the following four tests and analyses to meet the requirements for a positive conformity finding: regional emissions analysis, timely implementation of TCMs analysis, financial constraint analysis, and interagency consultation and public involvement. Staff has worked diligently with the regional partner agencies and the State and Federal agencies to resolve numerous difficult issues in preparing the conformity analysis.

## CONFORMITY UPDATE:

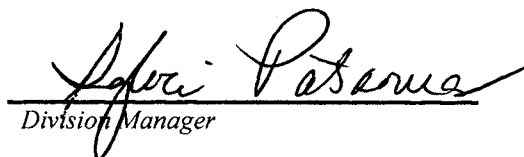
In recent discussions with ARB, South Coast AQMD, and U.S EPA, SCAG was informed that EPA has required ARB to revise and re-submit the South Coast ozone and PM2.5 transportation emission budgets, which were used in the 2008 RTP conformity analysis. This requirement dictates under conformity regulations that SCAG make appropriate revisions to its conformity analysis to reflect the new emission budgets and release it for another 30-day public review period.

The original schedule for adoption of SCAG's 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was April 3, 2008. To accommodate ARB's re-submittal of the emission budgets, the RTP hearing has been moved to May 8. Since the federal conformity finding on the current (2004) RTP expires on June 7, 2008, both EPA and FHWA have agreed to expedite their reviews of the Final RTP.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this task is included in the current year overall work program (08-025.SCGS1)

Reviewed by:

  
Division Manager



# MEMO

Reviewed by:

  
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*Department Director*

Reviewed by:

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*Chief Financial Officer*